PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

VOL. IX., No. **431.**] FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1917. [PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Planning for the Future	174
Child Labour	175
Kazan in Revolution	176
Review. Some Thoughts on Education	177
Bombs, Babies, and Reconstruction	178
Emergency Canteens	179

[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

Plans and Problems.

There is a pause in the progress of the Representation of the People Bill through Parliament, due to the fact that a good many solid days' work must be done by the Boundary Commissioners before the final stages of the Bill can be taken. For the moment, we return to a little of the waiting and watching with which we are so familiar. Suffragists will not, however, feel that it is idle waiting. The war does not pause, and the war-work which so many suffragists are doing does not often allow a breathing space. And in all our minds there is the great question of the future; the future not of our own Society only, nor of our own Country only, but of the world. It is that we all want to be working for. THE COMMON CAUSE articles this week give short accounts of some of the work that is being done to help in the present and to plan for the future, and of some of the problems that have to be faced.

Congratulations from Hungarian Women.

Our readers will be interested to see the message from Hungarian women, which we publish on another page. They rejoice in the prospect of enfranchisement for the women of Great Britain, and congratulate us on the achievement which enables us to devote our entire strength to the upbuilding of "a new securer world." We, for our part, earnestly hope that the women of Hungary may be strengthened in their demand for domestic justice. If Freedom could thus raise her head in one of the strongholds of despotism, we should, indeed, have quickened hopes for the future of Europe.

Some Curious Developments of Democracy.

That able little journal, *The Anti-Suffrage Review*, has some interesting comments on the divisions on Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons. It does not deny that 330 is a large majority; in fact, it refers to the division as "a stampede unprecedented in Parliament." "It represented," says our contemporary, "a panic among Members." We read on with great interest to see whether we can find out who or what it was that frightened them. It is rather difficult to gather this from the succeeding paragraphs, but it seems to be indicated that the object of their terror was "the people" who have been given "fresh encouragement to regard political power as a means to further their own immediate ends." "The nation," we are assured, "has drifted into an absolute democracy, or unlimited government by the many for the many at the expense of the few. Mr. Asquith and his fellow suffragists, *The Times* included, endorse the change. They record their approval that political power shall be so used, and they are resolved that the principle shall be still further extended by giving votes to women, in order that they may be still more of the many who are to batten on the few."

This is interesting, but mysterious; is it the women, or Mr. Asquith and *The Times* who are about "to batten on the few"?

In the next paragraph "the mystery deepens" (as they say in some of our other contemporaries). Apparently it is the Labour Party alone that is to profit by Women's Suffrage. But do Mr. Asquith and *The Times* secretly belong to the Labour Party? This is, indeed, a striking instance of "the Hidden Hand" in modern politics! No wonder that the Lords are called on to "defend the Constitution." But we are still more perplexed when we are told a little further on that "the country must be heard," and that "not a single Member would dare to challenge a Woman Suffrage election in his own constituency." Who then are "the people," fear of whom forced 385 Members to vote "in a panic," in favour of Women's Suffrage? Evidently "the people" are not the same as "the country" and "the many," though they command a majority in the House of Commons, do not do so in any single constituency in the kingdom. This is certainly a very serious state of things, and seems to indicate that the need for proportional representation is even graver than we had been led to understand.

The Public Attitude in Sheffield.

After explaining the reasons for the behaviour of the House of Commons, *The Anti-Suffrage Review* goes on to comment on the public attitude towards Women's Suffrage. Apart from "a few instances" of conversion among public men, it can see no evidence of anything but hostility and indifference.

The National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage has evidently taken a great deal of trouble to collect evidence. It has addressed a circular letter to as many as **134** electors in Sheffield. Of these, **43** have replied, and **32** of those who have done so are opposed to Women's Suffrage.

There are, we believe, about 70,000 electors in Sheffield. It is extremely interesting that out of these the N.L.O.W.S. was able to select 134 who would be likely to receive its circular letter with sympathy. But surely it was rather disappointing that only 43 replied? It looks as if some of the chosen 134 may have had their doubts, and what about the remaining thousands? Perhaps it will help us to guess at their feelings, if we remember that just the other day the Sheffield Society of the N.U.W.S.S., in a short spell of work among unselected women munition workers, collected 3,982 signatures to a memorial in favour of Women's Suffrage. Women do not occupy the same industrial position in Sheffield that they do in Lancashire, and, therefore, the progress of Women's Suffrage there has not been so rapid as in some other parts of the North Midlands. But it seems fairly clear that Sheffield women do want the vote now, and that even the most carefully selected male electors are not so clear about wanting to refuse it. We urge the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage to collect us some more statistics.

Representation of the People Bill in Committee.

July 4th. Clause 15. Proportional Representation.

Proportional Representation was again defeated in the House of Commons on July 4th, and is now definitely cut out of the Representation of the People Bill.

The debate was an interesting one. Mr. Montague Barlow (*South Salford*) moved an amendment cutting out the first subsection of Clause 15, providing that in a constituency returning three or more members, each elector should have one transferable vote. His chief supporters were Sir Thomas Whittaker, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, and Mr. Walter Long. On the other hand, the amendment was opposed and Proportional Representation supported by Mr. Asquith, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir John Simon, and Sir F. E. Smith.

The main argument on the one side was that Proportional Representation would destroy efficient Government, by weakening majorities, and giving representation to groups of cranks. On the other side, it was contended that it would give "more accurate representation in Parliament to the opinions of the nation, more freedom of members and candidates from undue pressure and more stability to the Government of the country." In spite of the support given to the principle by so many of the best intellects on both the front benches, it was defeated on a division by 201 to 169—majority in favour of the amendment, 32. The whole of Clause 15 then fell to the ground.

Progress Delayed.

No time is being given to the discussion of the Representation of the People Bill this week. This is probably because not much more progress can be made until the Boundary Commissioners have finished their work.

Planning for the Future.

Some Problems of After-War Trade.

There are hopeful signs that we are trying to overcome our national reluctance to think ahead. Plans for reconstruction after the war are occupying many minds, and, in addition to the Committee appointed by the Government to thresh out these problems, private groups are meeting for discussion and undertaking propaganda.

The creation of a Ministry of Labour to deal with matters affecting labour conditions is a step that has long been needed, and the development of the Board of Trade more on the lines of a Ministry of Commerce should mean that Government will watch over and cultivate markets both at home and abroad to a much greater extent than it has done in the past.

The Avoidance of Trade Disputes.

One of the most thorny problems before us is the avoidance of trade disputes. If we are to hold our own in the markets of the world, we must present a united front. Before the war there was great unrest in the labour world, and this is bound to break out again unless the reasonable demands of labour are met; but, at the same time, we cannot expect to compete on favourable terms with other nations if there is any artificial restriction of our output. Both capital and labour must consider the lessons of the war, and be ready to adjust their difficulties in a reasonable spirit.

A Sub-Committee of the Reconstruction Committee has been considering the relations between employers and employed, and recently issued an interim report recommending the formation of joint standing industrial Councils. Each industry, the Committee consider, should have an organisation representative of employers and workpeople, to have for its object the regular consideration of matters affecting the progress and well-being of the trade from the point of view of all those engaged in it, so far as this is consistent with the general interest of the community. The precise nature of the problems that will have to be faced naturally varies from industry to industry, and even from branch to branch, within the same industry, and their treatment, therefore, will need an intimate knowledge of the facts and circumstances of each trade. Such knowledge is only to be found among those directly connected with the trade, and can only be utilised to the fullest extent if the workpeople are given a greater share in the consideration of matters affecting their industry, and employers and employed are kept in constant touch.

Consultation Between Employers and Employed.

The Committee recommend that, in addition to the National Councils of the different trades, there shall be formed:—

(*a*) District Councils, representatives of the trade unions, and of the employers' association in the industry, or developed out of the existing machinery for negotiation in the various trades.

(*b*) That work's committees, representatives of the management and of the workers employed, should be instituted in particular works to act in close co-operation with the district and national machinery.

This necessity for more consultations between employer and employed is emphasised in the essays on the Relations between Capital and Labour, in a very valuable volume recently issued, dealing with questions of reconstruction. Writing on the standpoint of labour, Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., deplores the state of mutual suspicion and ill-concealed antagonism into which employers and employed were drifting before the war, but rejects the idea that some people are putting forward, of a cruel and widespread class warfare when "cannons cease to vomit and trenches are emptied."

"Having seen the son of the well-to-do and the son of the labourer watching and fighting together in order that their country may remain great and its people free, I cannot think," he says, "they will soon forget the comradeship that inspired them to common endeavour and sacrifice in withstanding the foe, nor that they will sanction lightly the resumption of industrial hostilities."

Mutual Confidence in Settling Disputes.

Sir Benjamin C. Brown, writing on the standpoint of Capital, takes the same view. He holds that kindly feeling between Capital and Labour has been much discouraged of recent years by the interference of people who know nothing about the circumstances, and that if employers and employed could feel more confidence in one another, and come together to talk things over in a friendly spirit, a great deal of misunderstanding would be avoided. "Where there is confidence, mistakes are easily explained, and where there is kindly feeling injustices are easily put right." Legislation, he maintains, should be the last resource, and it is a very bad one. "Settlements across a table are friendly, but a Parliamentary fight means victory on one side and a defeat on the other, and bad blood on both. I think the old maxim is safest, "Never win a victory till you have exhausted every chance of arranging a compromise."

The Utilisation of Women's Work.

One of the problems with regard to which employers and employed will have to consult is that of the restriction of female labour, and it is to be hoped that in any conference that takes place (whether local or national) fair representation will be given to the many thousands of women who have worked during the war emergency at trades hitherto closed to them. With proper organisation it should be possible to continue to utilise their skill and energy as fully in peace time as in war, and it will be a national loss, as well as an act of gross injustice, if trade unionists insist upon the restitution in their entirety of pre-war rules with regard to women's employment.

In the volume of essays to which reference has already been made, Mrs. Fawcett, writing on the "Position of Women in Economic Life," describes the discovery of the immense reservoir of unused, or only partially used, productive power which this country possesses in its women as "one of the economic events of the war." While recognising to the full the valuable work trade unions have done in obtaining improved conditions of labour, she maintains that in the matter of women's labour they have pursued a mistaken policy, which has had a terribly depressing effect on women's wages—the union being all the greater because it is against the principles of the creed they have professed. "The elevation of the status of labour has been a religion to many of them, but in this matter of women's labour they have 'denied their faith to make their faith prevail.' Forcibly to prevent half the nation from undertaking skilled work is a hideous tyranny, which has kept huge masses of industrial women in a sort of serfage, from which before the war escape seemed almost impossible. Now the wisest and most experienced of the trade unionists know that women have come to stay."

There will, no doubt, be a certain amount of opposition to women remaining on in the trades that they have newly learnt; but it is to be hoped that not only the leaders, but the large majority of trade unionists, will be ready to give them fair play. If, instead of trying to drive women out, trade unionists would insist on equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, the danger of women being used to lower the prevalent rates of wages could surely be overcome.

M. M.

Child Labour.

Much is said at the present time about the importance of "increasing the productive power of industry." What many of those who raise this cry appear to forget is that, even if material riches are as important as they suppose, material riches are made by human beings, and that ultimately, therefore, the only truly indispensable part of the capital of any society consists of the men, women, and children who are its members. If this were understood, less attention would be concentrated upon mechanism and organisation, and more upon the development of human faculties. In particular, it would be realised that the foundation of a healthy society is the protection of childhood and adolescence from premature exhaustion through overwork in industry at the age when children should be regarded not primarily as wage earners but as future parents and citizens of the community.

That protection is very inadequate at the present time. The children employed in industry fall into three broad divisions. In the first place, there are a large number who are employed outside school hours while still attending full time at school. Under the Employment of Children Act, 1903, no child may be employed before 9 a.m. or after 6 p.m., and local authorities may make bye-laws, specifying the age below which employment is illegal, the hours between which it is illegal, and the hours beyond which it is illegal. But that power has not been generally used. Out of 329 authorities only 98 had, by 1913, made bye-laws, restricting the general employment of children, and when the bye-laws are made they are difficult to administer effectively. The total number of children attending school who are thus employed out of school hours is probably about 245,000, and a considerable proportion of them are engaged in work which, combined with education, imposes an excessive and injurious strain upon them. An inquiry made among children in the upper standards of Birmingham schools in 1913, showed that 9,131 were working before and after attending school, of whom 2,585 worked between ten and twenty hours per week, 2,145 between twenty and thirty hours, and actually 2,228 over thirty hours. Birmingham, no doubt, is exceptional, owing to the prevalence there of home industries. But in Salford 2,363 children were found to be working out of school hours in the same year; some of them, when the hours of education and employment are combined, for as much as ninety hours per week, and in all large towns there are boys working early and late as errand boys, milk boys, and newspaper vendors. Obviously, in such circumstances, both the health and the education of the children must suffer. Regulation has now had a trial, and those who have seen most of it are unanimous that it is ineffective. The right course is to prohibit altogether the employment of children for purposes of gain on those days on which they are under a legal obligation to attend school.

In the second place, there are a large number of children who are partially or completely exempted from school attendance before they reach the age of fourteen. The common impression that up to that age attendance at school is compulsory in England and Wales is an illusion. Whether it is compulsory till fourteen or not depends on the bye-laws of Local Education Authorities. Partial exemption for the purpose of agriculture begins at eleven. Before 1914, this was not a large matter, affecting only about 10,000 children. But since the beginning of the war bye-laws have been relaxed, and the exemption of children in agricultural districts has largely increased. At twelve there is the much more serious system of partial exemption for children employed under the Factory. These "half-timers," who are concentrated mainly in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, number at any one time between 34,000 and 35,000, a figure which represents about 70,000 individual children in the course of the year. At or soon after thirteen a large number of children are exempted from school attendance altogether. According to the recent Report of the Committee on Juvenile Education in Relation to Employment after the War, the effective leaving age approximates to thirteen in sixty-three areas, is somewhere between thirteen and fourteen in 150 areas, and approximates to fourteen in London, and 105 in other areas. "The proportion of children remaining at school till they are actually fourteen cannot be more than 66 per cent., or less than 12 per cent.; if we place it at 50 per cent. the conjecture will probably not be far from the truth."

Consider for a moment the conditions under which the children who work half-time in textile factories at twelve, and the children who work whole-time in industry at or soon after thirteen, are employed. The former normally spend the morning at work and the afternoon at school in one week, and the morning at school and the afternoon at work in the next. When they work in the morning they spend thirty hours in the mill and twelve and a-half in school. When they work in the afternoon, they spend twenty-five and a-half hours in the mill and fifteen in the school. On the average, therefore, of a fortnight's work, the half-time child has been engaged at work and school together for half as many hours again as the full-time scholar. The child who works full-time at thirteen is a "young person," and subject to the same limitation of hours as an adult woman—whether because a child is as strong as a woman, or because a woman is as helpless as a child, is not apparent from the Acts. The maximum working week of children employed in textile factories is fifty-five and a-half hours, and of children employed in non-textile factories and workshops is sixty hours. But outside these is a large, though uncertain number of children who are employed outside the Factories and Workshops Acts, and whose hours are without any legal limitation whatever, except that imposed up to fourteen by the bye-laws made by a comparatively small number of authorities, under the Employment of Children Act of 1903.

In the third place, there are the two and a-half million children (or "young persons") between fourteen and eighteen years of age. If they are employed under the Factory and Workshops Acts the limitations on their employment are those already described. If they are employed outside those Acts they may work such hours as their employers choose. So capricious and devoid of principle has been our legislation, that, whereas the strongly organised coal miners have a maximum working day secured to them by law, office boys, warehouse boys, messenger boys, and van boys are without any legal protection whatever in the matter of hours. The Committee on "Juvenile Education in Relation to Employment after the War" speaks of the working week of some of these boys "as being anything from forty-eight to ninety hours." It is, undoubtedly, the case that the weekly hours of a large number of boys are nearer eighty than seventy. These long hours mean, of course, that anything like serious continued education is, except to a comparatively small proportion of the adolescent population, virtually impossible. Of the 2,696,000 young persons between fourteen and eighteen, more than three-quarters, about 80 per cent., are receiving no kind of continued education whatever, except such as they obtain in the course of their employment. The truth is that it is inhuman to expect the ordinary boy or girl to attend an evening school after working all day, and that of those who do attend, a large proportion, as all teachers know, are too tired to profit by the instruction offered them.

There are two main lines of reform. The first is a great extension of the restriction placed on overwork by means of educational legislation. The second is a reform of the Factory and Workshops Acts and an extension of their principle to unregulated trades. We can either say children must be educated at certain ages and times and, therefore, cannot work then, or that they must not work below certain ages and beyond certain hours, and, therefore, are free to receive education. But as neither line is likely to be pursued consistently, the best policy is probably to follow both at once. In the first place, then, the employment of children out of school on days on which they are under a legal obligation to attend school, full time should (as already suggested) be prohibited. Second, all exemptions from school attendance under fourteen years of age should be abolished by the Education Bill, which, it is understood, is impending, and, at the same time, it should be provided that within a period not exceeding five years the age of full-time attendance shall be raised to fifteen. Third, between the age at which full-time attendance ceases and that of eighteen, young persons should be under a legal obligation to attend school for not less than sixteen to twenty hours per week, and that the hours during which they may be employed in industry shall not exceed twenty-five per week. The reform could be introduced by instalments, the obligation to attend half-time applying first to those under sixteen, and only after five years to those between sixteen and eighteen.

Such educational legislation would in itself protect the years below eighteen from overwork. But if something less than this is adopted—if, for example, the hours to be spent on continued education are only eight or ten per week, it will be necessary to provide against overwork in industry by industrial legislation. Thus, in the first place, the maximum working week in both textile factories and in non-textile factories and workshops should be reduced. The hours in the latter (sixty hours) should be assimilated to those in the former (fifty-five and a-half hours), and there should be a further annual reduction of one hour per week until a maximum of forty-eight was reached. In the second place, Parliament should fix a maximum working day for young persons employed in industries which do not come

under the Factory and Workshops Acts. In the third place, the Trade Boards, set up in certain industries under the Act of 1909, should be empowered to fix not only (as at present) minimum rates of payment, but also maximum hours of work.

It would be foolish to pretend that such proposals are free from difficulties, nor is there space here to consider in detail the measures by which they might be overcome. But what impresses one who has watched the development of social legislation over a period of any length is that practical obstacles which seemed insuperable on one plane of argument, are not so much overcome as outflanked when the discussion is lifted to another plane. May we not hope that the disposition to subordinate the development of personality to the supposed interests of economic efficiency has been softened by the experience of the last three years, and that even should the world turn with the same ruthless concentration as before upon the organisation of material success, it may at least realise that the foundation of material success itself is something immaterial?

[The above article has kindly been sent to us by the Workers' Educational Association.

For further information, see *The Present Position of the Juvenile Labour Problem* (1d., from the Workers' Educational Association, 14, Red Lion Square, W.C., by F. Keeling).

See also *Child Labour and Education During the War and After* (2d.), which gives an account of the relaxation of local bye-laws in 1915.]

Kazan in Revolution.

(The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.)

The Mayor of Kazan and his colleagues have always been markedly appreciative of our work there, and when the date of our departure was finally settled, I had an interview with the Mayor, during which he expressed a wish that the names of those who had worked in the hospital might be sent to him. We decided, however, that we should prefer to be known in the town records not as individuals, but as "British Women" only. The following letter followed almost immediately :—

Honoured Madam,—Allow me, on parting, to offer you in the name of the town, our warmest thanks for the generous medical aid and tender care which you have brought to the poor children of Kazan from the shores of distant England, dear to every Russian heart. Please convey to your Sisters our deep gratitude for their work; we cannot but express some disappointment not to have their names recorded, though we bow to the modesty with which they asked to be known only as "British Women." We can assure you that the name "British Women" will ever remain a bright memory in the life of our town.—Yours sincerely grateful,

V. Baronin.

Dr. Stepney, who has been in charge of our hospital since the very beginning, made an offer of her services to the Town Authorities for a further six months, and this offer has been gratefully accepted. Working with her are our interpreter, Miss Crawford, and the three Russian probationers, who have been trained under the supervision of Dr. Stepney and our English sisters, so there is every possibility that the influence of our methods may be yet further strengthened.

We were still at Kazan when the news of the Revolution spread over the country. Excitement was intense, and our telephone was constantly busy transmitting congratulations to our Russian friends and receiving news from them. All kinds of rumours were rife, but newspaper affairs were wonderfully well managed, and all news of importance was published on long narrow sheets, which were freely sold at bookstalls and in the streets. In less than no time the old police force had disappeared, and was no less quickly replaced by the "Town Militia," strongly reminding us of our own "Specials," as they had no uniforms and wore on their arms a band of white linen, bearing the initials "G.M."; in many cases these were roughly written in ink or even pencil. These men and boys, most of them students at the University, worked most efficiently, and had great authority over the people.

A veritable epidemic of meetings broke out in the town, and only on one occasion was the military needed to make any demonstration of power, and that was on the night of the day when the great news came. The students had formed themselves into a large procession, and, with red flags flying, swept up from the ancient Kremlin, across the square to the Opera House, where a mass meeting was being held, singing as they came. They tried to force a way into the building, which was already packed, and the Cossacks were obliged to "round them up." However, overflow meetings were immediately arranged, good speakers promised, and the energies of the students were for the time diverted into useful channels. We attended one of these meetings, held in a cinematograph palace, and we unanimously agreed that even the "N.U." could show no better organisation. Miss Crawford was with us, and made the meeting doubly interesting by giving us the gist of the speeches. Representatives of all classes were invited to sit on the platform, and after a hymn had been sung in memoriam to those who had fallen in the Revolution, the meeting began, and continued to a triumphal conclusion.

For a long time this epidemic of meetings raged day and night. Students were busy addressing peasants and soldiers; everyone who could, and would, speak, spoke! Unused to freedom of speech and press, the people talked and talked! Stirring messages were published from the Provisional Government to the public. Appeals for moderation, for support, for clear thinking, for co-operation of all kinds came at the right time, and made a strong impression. Red flags and badges were to be seen everywhere. The soldiers wore them on their caps and tunics, and when red ran out they used pink!

The first public holiday after the Revolution had been declared was devoted to a march past of troops and to an open-air religious service held on the Theatre Square, to which came members of all sects. A little band of turbaned Mohammedans made a very picturesque spot, and the golden vestments of the priests looked magnificent. The day was bright and bitterly cold. Many feet of snow lay everywhere, and for some hours we stood on the roof of the portico of the "Assemblée de Noblesse," looking into the square below. We were forcibly struck by the apparently stolid attitude of the crowd. Hardly a sound rose from the thousands of people gathered there; we heard no cheering, and saw no outward enthusiasm in the streets. Probably the presence of so many soldiers accounted in some measure for this; soldiers who understood very little of current affairs, who, many of them, felt that Russia without a Tsar would cease to be, that war was bad and difficult to understand, but that this was worse! Our little parlourmaid, who was the prettiest little pink and white thing, and had a husband at the front, was found with her head in the china cupboard, sobbing out "Russia must be the most wicked country in the world, as God has taken away our Tsar." She was voicing the feeling of many of her class, unfortunately.

Very early in these days we had a special visit from Mme. Petrovosky (a member of our Hospital Committee, and well-known in Kazan as a hard worker in the cause of women and children). A women's society must be formed, a meeting held, and would we give expert advice? Miss Knight and I had a long talk with her to our mutual advantage. She assured us that there were no women speakers, but when we attended a perfectly congested meeting a few evenings after, we found that out of seven or eight representative women who spoke there was hardly one who did not speak fluently, with enthusiasm, with knowledge, and a fine restraint. It was a most interesting evening, and I hear from Mme. Petrovosky that things "womanly" are going ahead. We can only hope that Kazan is but typical of many other Russian towns, and that the judicious use of wise propaganda will do much to arrest the ill-effects of ignorance and misconception.

B. E.

THE SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

A Fine Record.

The Report, just issued, of the South London Hospital for Women, of which the Queen is patron, shows a fine record since Her Majesty formally opened the building last July.

The hospital is a general one for women and children, and is entirely staffed by medical women. Two wards were opened for the reception of patients early in October, and by the beginning of December accommodation for 66 in-patients had become available. It is hoped to open the remaining 14 beds as soon as the necessary additional nursing staff can be obtained.

The out-patient department has been opened since 1913, and the number of attendances has increased from 5,113 in that year to 24,920 in 1916. Owing to the increasing number of attendances, it has been found necessary to extend the premises by renting an adjoining house.

In view of the great increase in the cost of provisions, drugs, dressings, and other hospital requisites, the expenses of maintenance and upkeep amount to a larger sum than was anticipated, therefore the importance of regular and generous support cannot be too strongly emphasised. Information can be obtained from the Secretary, South London Hospital for Women, South Side, Clapham Common, S.W. 4.

For those in search of really good, well-cut clothes at bargain prices, our representative reports that Messrs. Gorringe of Buckingham Palace Road are well worth a visit. A specially attractive line is a coat-frock in a silk and wool mixture, absolutely uncrushable, in very nice shades, and also black, at 55s. 9d.; Jap silk robes at 25s., plain voile dresses at 29s. 11d., and Grafton voiles at 35s., well cut and well finished, represent great reductions. In the Mantle Department moiré silk costumes in black, mole, and royal blue, have been reduced from £4 4s. to £3 3s.

Messrs. Gorringe have bought a stock of fur coats at 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. less than they will cost in October, and those who can buy ahead should certainly inspect these coats, which range from £9 each.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Reviews.

SOME THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION AND THE WAR. By R. H. Tawney (published by the Workers' Educational Association, 14 Red Lion Square, W.C., 1d.).

All those who are thinking about the future and the problems of reconstruction should read this pamphlet, which goes to the heart of the matter.

To its writer the struggle for education is essentially a struggle between materialism and the freedom of the spirit. The apathy of so many English Governments to education in the past has only been a reflection of the indifference of the ordinary man towards it. "The first step towards educational reform, therefore, is not to start doing more energetically the kind of things we used to do in the kind of mood we used to accept. The first step is to recognise that our mood itself, our attitude towards education, was wrong, because our preoccupation with material interests was wrong; and that we shall not be able to change the former unless we abandon the latter, or, at least, recognise that it ought to be abandoned The beginning for us, as for all barbarians, is to burn what we have adored, and to adore what we have burned."

This great change ought to be possible for us now, because the war has been itself an education. The Prussianism against which we are fighting is one of the great enemies of freedom of the spirit; Industrialism, as it has grown up in England and America, is another. They are closely akin, or, rather, they are two aspects of the same thing—that deadly materialism which destroys freedom—which, whether it come to us in a German or an English form, ought to be resisted to the death, and is being resisted to the death at this time.

"And if we feel that the absolute claims of personality, the preservation and development of spiritual freedom, are worth any sacrifice in time of war, we ought equally to feel that they are worth any sacrifice in time of peace."

The sacrifice which has been willingly made by so many who have fought and died in this war, and which we have thought worth while, will be useless unless we are prepared to follow it by other sacrifices in time of peace. "Education offers, indeed, a kind of *experimentum crucis*, an issue on which our sincerity in the cause for which we claim to have taken up arms, and for which many soldiers did take up arms, may be brought to the test. For ultimately the merits of a war are judged neither by the diplomatic correspondence which preceded it, nor by the efforts devoted to winning it, but by the kind of civilisation which arises from it, and by the ability of the victor to establish, not only over the enemy, but over himself, the authority of the principles for which he claimed to fight. That, and that alone, is the reality which survives the illusions of the combatants. War, it is true, by its personification of an irreconcilable antithesis, makes explicit principles which were latent or lightly held; and in such personification lies its moral significance. But only peace can show whether they are really the breath of our nostrils, or merely caught up as a weapon of offence which will be discarded when their temporary utility has ceased with the cessation of the war. . . . If, as we claim, the cause of England is the cause of all the higher possibilities of the human spirit, then we ought to perpetuate that cause in our social institutions, so that future ages, instead of saying—of how many wars might it not be said!—'After all, it did not make much difference to the world who was victorious,' may see our everyday life as the incarnation of the principles to which, in the hour of our trial, we appealed, and which derived new life from our appeal."

This little pamphlet is a noble and a reasonable piece of writing, and it should be read by Suffragists.

Correspondence.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

MADAM,—May I entreat Lady Selborne to reconsider her plea for putting widowed mothers of young children under the Poor Law? The Poor Law is intended for those who cannot earn their own living. It is of the essence of the reform known as "Mothers' Pensions" that mothers who look after their own young children do earn their living, and earn it hard. If you appoint anyone else to do a piece of work that is honest, necessary, and honourable work, you do not invite them to receive their salaries at the hands of the relieving officer merely in order to "use an existing machinery." Since the beginning of the war, thousands of posts have been filled and new posts innumerable have been invented, some useful, some not; but none of them have been paid by the relieving officer, merely because he is, in many cases, a "very capable and sympathetic" person. Why, in the name of reason, is the salary of the most useful and honourable worker of all to be singled out for this insult? Of course, if the payment is still to be regarded as "outdoor relief," it may be paid by the relieving officer, as before. In that case, the self-respecting working-woman will go on overworking herself and starving herself to avoid it, as she has done hitherto. But if the pension be, in fact, a payment for service done, it should no more come under the Poor Law than the salary of the magistrate who awards it.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

WOMEN ATTENDING POLICE COURTS.

MADAM,—I am making enquiries as to the number of women who attend Police Courts in London, with the object of being of use to women prisoners in certain cases, and of watching the administration of the law. I shall be much obliged if any of your readers can tell me of any societies which are undertaking this work, or of any women who make a regular practice of visiting the London Police Courts.

ROSAMOND SMITH,
Hon. Sec. London Branch of National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHERS' SALARIES.

MADAM,—One wonders how long it will take men to regard women, even prospective women voters, as entitled to that "fair play" they are proud of claiming as such a notable virtue of their own sex.

Mr. Fisher has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the salaries of teachers in Elementary Schools. The subject is to be fully discussed in regard to "locality, duties, qualification, sex, and other relevant considerations." As about three-fourths of the teachers in Elementary Schools are women, one would have expected that "fair play" would have demanded that this Committee, which is to decide their remuneration, should have consisted of, at least, equal representation of women and men. But Mr. Fisher's Committee is made up of fourteen men to four women; and of actual Elementary School Teachers themselves, there are but five, four men and only one woman, the exact reverse of the proportion to be represented.

When the National Federation of Women Teachers asked that some representation of this, the largest organised body of women teachers, should be included in the Committee, they met with a blank refusal.

It reminds one of an incident which occurred recently in a large Northern town. A film, publicly holding women up to contumely as sole misdemeanants in regard to the falling birthrate, was, in spite of continued objections, exhibited in the town; and when the indignant women, representative of almost all organisations of women of every rank and grade, made a spirited protest, they were told that four men, one of them a bishop, had sat in consultation before the film was produced and *carefully considered it from the women's point of view.*

Presumably the fourteen men on Mr. Fisher's Committee will all consider the question of Equal Pay for Equal Work from the point of view of that large majority of women engaged in the profession concerned.

CAROL RING.

IN MEMORIAM.

MAJOR A. J. RENDEL, D.S.O., R.F.A.

We deeply regret to announce the death, from wounds received in action, of Major A. J. Rendel, D.S.O., Royal Field Artillery.

Major Rendel was a devoted supporter of our cause, and his death is a severe loss to the London Society for Women's Suffrage and to the N.U.W.S.S.

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Bombs and Babies and Reconstruction.

Last Saturday morning as Baby Week was drawing to a close, Londoners suddenly saw a flight of invaders appearing out of the blue, and the streets that had been decorated in honour of the babies were shaken by the noise of bombs and by London's guns, as she defended herself against the foe. After the battle in the air was over, or had moved away from their immediate vicinity, thousands of London women and girls finished off their week's work in offices and shops and factories and hurried home to see whether their own dwellings were standing and their own families alive. In the afternoon the final festivities of Baby Week went on undisturbed, and many people's minds were divided between wondering how many babies had been killed by bombs on this particular day, and trying to make plans to prevent so many being killed all the time by overcrowding and bad milk. The day, with all its contrasts, its blue sky, and sunshine, and babies, and menace of swift death, was altogether very characteristic of the strange times in which we live, and very unlike anything we could have imagined before nineteen hundred and fourteen.

For perhaps the strangest thing about these times is the extraordinary way in which things which used to be separate, in fact, or in our minds, have been violently thrown together, and, as it were, mixed up. In former days it used to be possible to arrange things in categories. One could still, if one wished, think of the state as separate from the home of men as separate from women. Now it is much less possible to do so. The baby who used at one time (though not so lately as 1914) to be altogether his mother's concern, is now admitted to be an overwhelmingly important concern of the state, and things which used to be thought of as only interesting to men, such as military defences, are now perforce of immediate interest to women. It is loudly and insistently proclaimed that victory in the great battlefields of the world depends upon the management of the larders at home, and we have learned by tragic experience that the private, detailed happiness of millions of quiet lives is at the mercy of remote systems of thought, which those who are destroyed by them have not heard of, and in many cases, could not even conceive.

In these days, then, if ever, we ought to realise the interdependence of human affairs. It is, perhaps, partly because we are beginning to do so that, in spite of strife and misery and loss, such as never yet were, there is still an extraordinary and increasing hopefulness in many minds. This appears in the speech and writings of the most unlikely people, and in the plans for reconstruction which everyone is making, and which embrace everything—religion, education, industrial conditions, sex-relations, international relations, and a plentiful supply of pure milk. Reconstruction seems, in fact, to be the new word for reform, and almost everybody is now a reformer, and all the reformers are full of hope.

It is true that at intervals the blue sky is shadowed, the terrible difficulties built up by past injustice seem insurmountable, or we are reminded of the injustice which goes on now building up difficulties for the future, or a momentary realisation of the irreparable loss and misery of these years reduces us to desolation. At those moments we wonder whether this generation or the one that is growing up, weakened as they have been by the loss of so many of those who were our Country's hope, will really be able to reconstruct, or whether reaction born of extreme exhaustion will overcome the forces of reform. It lies with every one of us to do something to prevent this from happening; and in this country if the duty is more urgent for any one part of the people than for another, it is surely for the new electors, whose immediate right to the franchise has been claimed and admitted largely because it is believed that their help is necessary in national reconstruction. No set of voters that have ever been enfranchised have had such high hopes of what their

freedom might mean, and of none have higher hopes been formed. Whatever else happens, these hopes must not be allowed to fail. And in order that they may not fail, all, and more than all, the thought and effort which have been used in getting the vote must be turned to the organisation of the voters.

It is a great advantage to everybody that women will, in all probability, get their votes at a time when so much is in the melting pot, and when the old rigid distinctions between various groups of people and sets of ideas, have been, to a large extent, broken down. We have been made to realise lately—if we did not before—that practically everything that concerns men concerns women too, and everything that concerns women also concerns men. This makes it very unlikely that the new voters will bring to the polls any special set of opinions, which can be labelled "Women's Opinions." What they will bring is a special experience, differing in some important respects from the experience of men, a different comparative degree of interest in the questions that concern us all, and about some of these questions a different point of view. Men and women, for example, are equally concerned in the defence of the country and in the welfare of childhood, but it is probable that for some time they will look at these matters from different angles. All matters which immediately concern the home will receive a greater proportion of public attention, and will be treated with greater practical sense when those whose aptitudes and training are "domestic and maternal" are represented in Parliament. On the questions which appear, or used to appear, more remote from our immediate practical life, the women voters will, of course, need a great deal of education. Such questions as international relations or the development of the distant parts of the British Commonwealth do not make such an immediate and obvious appeal to the housemother as the questions of healthy babies and decent homes. But the events of the last three years have shown that they do concern her quite as much as they concern the men, and when the education of facts has been followed up and driven home by the spread of intellectual education and by the exercise of citizenship, she will care as much as any male politician. All over the world democracy has been justified, and it has been shown that it is not the nations who keep the decision of their most important problems in the hands of the few, who do best for humanity. Each advance of democracy here or in other countries gives us a surer hope of a future in which all human affairs will receive the amount of attention which they really deserve, and be treated with a greater regard to the welfare of the whole. More freedom and more education are what the world needs. The two must go hand in hand. If they do, we shall quickly arrive at a truer proportion in the treatment of human affairs.

The time is coming when both men and women will realise that it is equally absurd to suppose that one can have a great State without healthy babies, or to suppose that it is worth while to bring up babies at all unless freedom and justice are being defended all over the world.

I. B. O'M.

An Emergency Canteen.

Work of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for French Soldiers on Leave.

A chateau near Soissons having been offered to Miss Ivens as a hospital by the widowed mother of one of our wounded soldiers, she made a journey from Royaumont to investigate its possibilities. It was necessary first to see the Commandant, and when our C.M.O. was ushered into his Bureau he lost no time in pointing out to her that as, in his opinion, the most immediate and urgent need of Soissons was that of the permissionaire, he would take the opportunity to beg the Scottish Women there and then to come to his aid. Large numbers of soldiers returning to their sectors from leave passed through the town, and many of them had to spend a day or a night there. Being isolated from their regimental units they were not entitled to draw rations. Soissons, he reminded them, was still within range of the German heavy guns, and had only been completely restored to the French since April. There is not a house that has not been shelled; comparatively few civilians have gone back to their half ruined homes since the German bombardment which followed the evacuation, hence there is absolutely no means of getting food.

This may all be in the day's work in war time, but the Commandant is a sympathetic man and a wise administrator, and he could not bear to have his permissionaires, after, perhaps, a sad leave taking from their families, going hungry and shelterless for twenty-four hours before they got back to the trenches.

So—if the Scottish Women wished to help French soldiers—here was their opportunity. Outside the Bureau at that very moment there were groups of men, haggard-looking after a long journey and a sleepless night in an open station. Piled on the Commandant's papers were some loaves of bread which he himself kept handy for the more urgent cases, and more securely hidden there was a little heap of tinned sardines. He could do nothing as Commandant; as an individual he could, at least, distribute these to the more hungry.

To make a long story short, Miss Ivens came back to Royaumont that night, having committed herself and the Hospital to come to the rescue, temporarily at least, and before midnight a staff of four had been chosen to man an emergency canteen, and a provisory list of necessaries had been made out. Tuesday was spent in collecting and packing stores. On Wednesday morning the party went off in the hospital lorry, and I was given the welcome task of accompanying the chauffeur there and back in order to be able to gather particulars of the Soissons Canteen for The Common Cause.

I need not particularise our route, except to say that we ran along through a doubly historic country, through which the Fifth Division of our first Expeditionary Force had passed, first in the retreat from Mons, and, later, after the battle of the Aisne, in its move north; and that a great part of our journey was made along a road that, since the battle of the Aisne until the Great Offensive in March and April, had been one of the main lines of lateral communication behind the old French front. Most of the screens that had hidden the French convoys from German view were being taken down. The road surface was good, the country looked green and smiling, the Aisne a peaceful little stream. So it was with a shock of considerable surprise that we saw, following on a dull boom to our left, a great cloud of white smoke bursting up behind a coppice. It was a little reminder from the Germans, sixteen or twenty miles away in the marshes of St. Gobain, on the banks of the Ailette—or, perhaps, even in those dark woods in the neighbourhood of their abominable doings at Courcy—that they still had shells to spare. Five minutes later another dropped in the same spot, and we began to wonder if the peaceful looking road was quite as healthy a spot as it had seemed ten minutes since, when we had sat by the roadside eating our lunch.

Half an hour later we were in Soissons—a very battered but still a beautiful little city, with its ruined Gothic churches still holding up their heads in defiance of the storm of shot and incendiary shells with which the Boches tried, after their hasty evacuation of the line of the Aisne, to obliterate it from the map of France. (That so much of Soissons was saved is largely to the credit of the Paris firemen, who fought the conflagrations while the gunners fought the invisible guns that poured fire balls on the city.) I do not think that one house escaped. Those that are not blackened, roofless, or in ruins, have gaping holes in their walls, bullet holes in their iron gateways, shattered windows, and broken tiles and chimney pots.

The Commandant made us very welcome, and took us to the Schoolhouse near the station that was four days later to be a flourishing canteen in full working order. A couple of shell holes had been boarded up during the two days since Miss Ivens had first seen it, the windows were being repaired with oiled cotton (a bombarded town's universal substitute for window glass), the doors and waterpipes and sink and kitchener mended. Debris two feet deep had been swept into the garden. Several soldiers were busy cleaning up, and the sergeant in charge promised that another day's work would see the place habitable. Next we went to see the billet—a house that was actually whole, a few minutes' walk distant. It had been commandeered, and its owner, who had only been back in her native city a few days, did not seem to be quite sure whether to be pleased or annoyed at the sudden influx of Scottish women. Her neighbours opposite, however, were in no two minds, and placed their pump and unlimited supplies of spring water, their assistance, and their goodwill unreservedly at our disposal. We then visited the *Intendant's* office, where they gladly undertook to supply the Canteen with all the meat, bread, coffee, and sugar it cared to buy at military rates. After that, we went on to the Hotel de Ville to see the Mayor—a man who has stuck at his post through the bombardment, and still works on in the ruins of his fine eighteenth century building. Words fail me to describe the welcome he gave us. The soldiers and civilians of Soissons are fortunate in their Commandant and Mayor. No wonder they are loved as well as respected. There and then *Monsieur le Maire* conducted us through what were once the *salons* of the Hotel de Ville, where the municipal furniture is stored—to

choose from among his salvage, tables for the Canteen. The city supplied them: by 8 o'clock the following morning the Army had transported them to the Schoolhouse.

After a visit to the Cathedral—roofless, with its tower and its glass shattered, its floor a mass of broken masonry (and the evening service being carried on as usual in the Sacristy)—we were given dinner by the Commandant, and then retired to bed. Not, on that first night, to sleep. The morning had seen a desultory bombardment, the afternoon a foiled reconnaissance by German aeroplanes. To-night, the incessant French firing kept us awake—"artillery activity in the Laffaux sector" our newspapers interpreted it for us later. One can lie in bed at the Scottish Women's billet in Soissons and watch the German's star shells going up in wakeful agitation as they and we wonder what the dawn will bring forth. It was a historic night, too—for at 3 a.m., far away up on the British front, the Ypres-Messines battle was beginning—with its explosion that, we are told, was heard in England, though we have met a British soldier who slept through it!

As the school was not yet ready we were taken, before 8 o'clock, to have a little peep at the reconquered country on the other side of the Aisne—here a village silently and systematically destroyed by pick and crowbar, every apple and pear tree in the little orchards hacked in two; there a hamlet in blackened ruins, where the Germans had been pounded by French guns; and between all a network of trenches—here the German, evidently looked upon by their tenants as permanent quarters, and perfected accordingly—here the French, not so neatly finished, carelessly proclaiming their temporary character. There a "cage" that had held its hundreds of German prisoners after the first determined forward French plunge. And to complete this peep at the French front, the Boches gave us a display of long distance shelling. One shell demolished a house. Some of them were asphyxiating gas shells, as we afterwards learnt, and our workers are now furnished with gas masks. The French big guns replied, and we had the interesting experience of hearing the shells coming and going with their curious jerky whistle, half scream, half rattle, over our heads. One or two of the Boche ones burst unpleasantly near us in the town, when we got back, but as they were falling neatly round their target (which, I may say without shocking the censor, had previously lost all its interest for the German gunners, had they only known it); and since modern gunnery is an exact science, nobody worried much. Our storekeeper (who is at the head of the Canteen, having had experience in this work before she joined in 1915) and her staff of three auxiliary nurses (all four promoted orderlies of from eighteen months or two years' service at Royaumont) behaved as if they had been used to bombardment all their lives, much to the delight of the French officers, and the chauffeur, and I last saw them calmly working at the School within a hundred yards of an ugly cloud of dense black smoke.

Yesterday, Sunday, Miss Ivens went up in the small Ford ambulance with further stores. She found the Canteen in full swing. Streams of hungry *permissionaires* had been revelling in the British bully beef and French coffee. Among them an old patient from the Elsie Inglis Ward at Royaumont, who was so excited at the meeting he could hardly eat! A sergeant's guard was at the door. (A guard sleeps at the school at night to keep watch over the stores.) Flowers—yes, *looted* flowers from the deserted Soissons gardens—bloomed on the Mayor's tables in empty shell cases, and an array of "commandeered" crockery (presented by admiring *poilus* and sympathetic officers) put our own polished tin mugs somewhat out of countenance. The staff was delighted with the work and with Soissons, and Soissons was delighted with them and with their work. Indeed, they sent back a pressing request for a visitors' book, so many Brass Hats and important personages have been paying complimentary and congratulatory visits to the Emergency Canteen. It all betokens very keen gratitude on the part of the French. These *permissionaires* have been going hungry for some while, and the British are old friends of the Soissonais and, therefore, all the more welcome.

Nowhere in France at this moment is the name of the Scottish Women's Hospitals more honoured than in Soissons and the trenches thereabouts. The one fear is—will the Hospital keep it up? For the French well understand that it costs money to feed their hungry *permissionaires*, and they know that we have other claims upon us. But do not let us forget that a famous division of our Army fought out its part in the battle of the Aisne in that bit of country close by the station where our Canteen is, and that in those days the people of the neighbourhood were prodigal in their kindness and hospitality to our own men.

V. C. C. C.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
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Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary)
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The air raid came as a brief interlude in Saturday morning's work. An order was issued that all those working in the N.U.W.S.S. office should descend to the basement. They did so with excellent discipline, though with some obvious regret. Before going, most people who worked in the front rooms managed to catch a glimpse of invading aeroplanes, which looked so natural that it was difficult to realise their purpose in coming; at least, until the banging began. There is so much peace noise in the neighbourhood of this office that some of those who work in the back rooms did not even then notice anything different from usual until they were summoned to the basement.

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After a long interval of silence we have been greatly cheered by a long letter from Dr. King Atkinson. A previous report, which should have reached us a fortnight ago, has apparently gone astray. She writes as follows:—

"In my last report I told that Zaleschiki was being kept on—the Klyster barrack for small-pox is closed for the moment, as small-pox has ceased, but the ambulatoire still continues there. We have opened a barrack for peasants in the garden of our hospital at Zaleschiki for *typhus exanthematicus*, which is ramping just now among the villages, and will possibly have to open another barrack, thirty versts from Zaleschiki, near Shootrominsy, for typhus also.

We have also undertaken a hospital for 200 surgical cases at Podgaitza, 120 versts from Zaleschiki, and quite near the front, and the wounded are brought direct from the trenches. We took over fifty cases with the hospital, and Dr. May had been very busy before my arrival with amputation and general clearing up of old cases. Things have been very busy at Zaleschiki, and fairly slack here, but we are now prepared for a big rush if it comes. The only appalling thing is that the entire accommodation here in the town is 2,000 beds, and we expect 10,000 wounded; and the entire transport of all hospitals for evacuation is 150 per day, which is nothing. We can only evacuate eight every two days, as we have no transport.

(*a*) The military epidemic hospital at Zaleschiki is for 100 beds.
(*b*) The barrack for peasants at Zaleschiki is for 35 beds.
(*c*) The proposed new barrack for typhus at Shootrominsy is for 30—40 beds.
(*d*) The surgical hospital at Podgaitza is for 200 beds.
(*e*) In addition, we have three ambulatoires and a fourth well begun. The young student, Zipinsky is to help with the ambulators.

The disposal of the staff is as follows:—

At Zaleschiki 52nd Epidemic Otread and Barrack for Peasants: Six sisters, one V.A.D., and Dr. Hall. Two other V.A.D. workers are there, but will return shortly to England.

At Podgaitza Surgical Hospital: Five English sisters, one Russian sister, one dispenser, two V.A.D.s, three chauffeurs, Dr. May, and Dr. Atkinson. Two of these sisters are returning to England in July."

Podgaitza, where the new surgical unit is working, is situated about halfway between Kieff and Pinsk. We can well imagine that with this new, vigorous offensive of General Brusiloff's army, Dr. Atkinson and her fellow-workers are as busy as even they could wish.

MORE GREETINGS FROM OVERSEAS.

The following greeting has been sent to Mrs. Fawcett through Madame Schlumberger, President of L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes:—

"L'Union française pour le Suffrage des Femmes et les Membres de la Vie Féminine, envoyent à leurs sœurs anglaises, prochainement électrices et à Mrs. Fawcett, leur presidente, leurs plus chaudes et enthousiastes félicitations pour la magnifique majorité de 385 voix contre 55 remportée à la Chambre des Communes par le Suffrage intégral féminin, le 18 Juin, 1917.

Elles saluent leurs devancières avec affection et admiration sachant que leur succès est dû à leur énergie et à leur constance.

Le triomphe des unes aidera au succès des autres et nous comptons sur le suffrage obtenu par les Anglaises pour nous aider à assurer le nôtre.

Pour nous, nous voulons espérer que les témoignages de sympathie que les Pouvoirs Publics veulent bien nous manifester se traduiront bientôt également par des réalisations."

From the Balloon Section of the Royal Flying Corps:—

The following has been received by the London Society for Women's Suffrage from an officer of the R.F.C. in France. It is dated June 22nd:—

"May I be allowed to offer my warmest congratulations on the initial success gained in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

"During the war I have been rather too busy over here to pay a great deal of attention to the cause which seemed the one most worthy to fight for in the days before the war, but let me assure you that I feel the deepest pleasure that our victory over the reactionaries in our own country has so soon succeeded the victory at Messines."

A MESSAGE FROM HUNGARIAN WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS.

The International Women's Suffrage Alliance has received the following message from Miss Paula Pogany, of Budapest, presumably on behalf of the Woman Suffrage Society there:—

"Though, unfortunately, still divided by the fearful combat in which our sons are destroying each other, we hope this expression of congratulation will reach you through the kindness of our neutral colleagues. We wish to congratulate you on the introduction of the Parliamentary Bill extending the franchise to you, women of Great Britain, who have been working more than the women of any other country in Europe for the rights of women. We trust that we, too, will soon be able to conquer our rights. Humanity never needed women's full strength more than to-day, when we face the greatest task: the reconstruction of our poor destroyed world. We congratulate you most heartily on the achievement which will allow you to devote your entire strength to the upbuilding of a new, securer world. A world in which we, too, hope to do our part armed with our political rights."

In this connection it is interesting to note that *The Daily Chronicle* of June 22nd published the information that the new Hungarian Ministry had brought forward a proposal to enfranchise certain classes of women, including those owning or managing independent businesses, and that the Hungarian Feminist Union, dissatisfied with this concession, had decided to begin a propaganda urging the grant of universal suffrage to women.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. for Home and Foreign Service.

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurer, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to June 28th, 1917	222.978	4	9
Further donations received to July 2nd, 1917:—			
Mrs. Hill Jack, Dunedin, New Zealand, per Mrs. Ernest Harrington, Hon. Sec. Highgate and North St. Pancras Branch of the London W.S.S.	5	0	0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: 13th Penny Weekly Collection in Greenock (Corsica)... ...	20	19	6
*Sir A. Rowand Anderson ...	3	0	0
*Per Mrs. Thornton, Hon. Treas. Ilkley W.S.S.: Result of house to house collection (New Unit)—two beds for one year, "Ilkley" and "Ben Rhydding" (£100); for General Funds (£29 3s. 9d.)... ...129	3	9	
*Per Miss Hilda Sim, Hon. Treas. Kingsfield College, Dartford, Kent, for the "Kingsfield" and "M.B.O." beds (Royaumont)	30	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Messrs. Dick, Kerr & Co....	4	11	5
*Anonymous	32	17	6
*Per D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas., and Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec., Local S.W.H. Com., Manchester and Dist. Fed. Field Hospital Unit, S.W.H.: Manchester University Women Students, for two beds, six months each (Corsica) (further) ...	50	0	0
*Miss Elizabeth Rae (monthly donation)		2	6
*Edinburgh W.S.S., per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas. (June donations): *Dr. and Mrs. Nicol, towards "Newington Cottage" bed (Royaumont) (£25); *Miss M. R. Watson, towards "Carriden Parish Memorial" bed (£7); Miss Fraser (for Home Unit) (£5 5s.), Mrs. Denholm (£5), Miss M. R. Fairbairn (£1), Miss Iredale (13s. 2d.), Miss D. H. Dundas (10s.), Mrs. C. Clendinnen (10s.), Employees and Staff North British Rubber Co., Ltd. (£41 3s. 1d.), Staff and Employees Brown Bros. & Co., Ltd., from 7th to 26th May (£11 5s. 5d.), Employees Duncan, Flockhart, per T. Sime, Esq. (£5), The Ford U.F. Church Women's Assoc., Dalkeith, per Mrs. Mercer (£5), *Employees Scottish Motor Traction Co., Ltd. (£4 0s. 6d.), *Employees McTaggart, Scott & Co., Ltd., per J. L. Lawrie, Esq. (£3 15s. 1d.), *Employees Thomson & Porteous (£3 13s. 6d.), *Leith Domestic Servants, per J. Russell, Esq. (for June) (£2 4s. 6d.), *Employees Munro & Co., Ltd., per J. Banks, Esq. (£2 2s. 4d.), *Women Clerks, Accts. Office, G.P.O., per Miss Sutherland (£2 2s.), *Leith Domestic Servants, per J. Russell, Esq. (£1 18s. 6d.), *No. 4 Hoist Squad Trimmers and Hoistmen, per J. Munro, Esq. (£1 13s.) 128	16	1	
*Per Mrs. B. P. Young, for the "Trinity Heroes" bed (Royaumont): Miss Horsfield (£1), Mrs. A. Sanderson (10s.), Miss Campbell Currie (10s.) ...	2	0	0
*Lady Mitchell-Thomson ...	2	0	0
Miss Hobson, c/o G. C. Johnson, Esq., Canada	5	0	0
*Mrs. Stenhouse, c/o Mrs. Gillespie	1	0	0
Per Miss J. K. Davis, Sec. Somerville Brch. O.W.S.S.W.S. —Sale of Narcissus given by the Misses Dugall and Earp, of Cunmor	1	0	5
*Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Com., per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas. (June donations): *Mid and Upper Cowal Com., per Mrs. Graham, to name bed (£100), Alec W. Miller, Esq. (£50), *Airdrie Academy, per Miss Paterson, for upkeep of beds (£33), Galloway Engineering Co., proceeds of concert, per Miss Rowbotham (£28), *Laurel Bank School, for upkeep of bed (£25), Part proceeds of Concert held in Sanquhar and Kirkconnell, organised by the Crichton Hosiery Girls, per D. McGeorge, Esq. (£17), Ayr and District W.S.S. (£11 17s.), Part proceeds of Sale of Work, organised by eight girls of Hillhead High School (£10 10s.), *Miss F. M. Robinson (£10 2s. 10d.), *Dr. and Mrs. Cecil Foggo, Zastron, South Africa, for Dr. Louise McIlroy's Unit (£6 6s.), Mrs. Chicken, proceeds from Chain Teas (£5 16s. 6d.), Dr. Margaret E. McNeill, Manchuria, per Mrs. Workman, for Dr. Louise McIlroy's Unit (£5), *A. McD. T. (Meatless Days) (£1 2s. 1d.), *E. Duvoisin, Esq. (£1 1s.), Mrs. Murray (£1), *Miss Grimstone (£1), Mrs. Anderson, collecting box (£1), *Miss Morrison, for Serbia (£1), *Mrs. Brown, collecting box (19s. 8d.), *Miss Montgomerie, for Serbia (12s. 6d.), Mrs. McClure, per Mrs. Nicholson (12s. 6d.), Collection from St. Thomas's Wesleyan Methodist Y.W.C.A. Bible Class, per Miss Lumsden (11s. 6d.), *Mrs. Pryor (10s.), Miss F. Postdown (3s.), Further don. from Stepps Work Party (2s.), *Workmen's Scheme*—Messrs. Yarrow & Co., Ltd., for upkeep of bed (£25), Employees Messrs. Paisley, Ltd. (£10), *Employees Messrs. Wm. Simons & Co., Ltd. (£9 18s. 6d.), *Employees Messrs. James McHaffie & Son (£5), *Employees Messrs. Wm. Beattie (£4 18s. 11d.), *Employees Messrs. P. & W. McLellan, Ltd. (£3 8s. 10d.), *Employees Messrs. Wm. Martin, Sons & Co. (£2 2s.), *Staff Messrs. McClure & McDonald (£2), *Employees Messrs. Cassel Cyanide Co., Ltd. (£2), *Employees Messrs. Seedhill Finishing Co., Ltd. (£1), *Employees Messrs. Alexander Jack & Co., Ltd. (12s.)—£378 6s. 10d. Proceeds of Miss Polly White's Play, "Cousin Kate," in the Athenæum, £304, less expenses £129 19s. 3d. (£174 0s. 9d.); Proceeds of "Thistle" Drawings, £90 7s. 6d., less expenses £8 3s. (£82 4s. 6d.) ...634	12	1	
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, per Capt. Ferguson (Girl Guides), Proceeds of Sale of Work (£7 2s. 8d.), Play given by Girl Guides (14s.)	7	16	8	
Birmingham and District, per Miss Preston 200	0	0		
	£224.236	4	8	

*Denotes further donations.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Kingsfield" (Royaumont) (further 3 months)	Per Miss Hilda Sim, Hon. Treas. Kingsfield College, Dartford, Kent.
"M. B. O." (Royaumont) (further 3 months)...	Per Miss Hilda Sim, Hon. Treas. Kingsfield College, Dartford, Kent.
"Sheila" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)...	Per Miss Morrison, Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com., per Messrs. Yarrow & Co., Ltd., Scotstoun.
"Airdrie Academy" (American Unit) (further 6 months)...	Per Miss Morrison, Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com., per Miss Paterson.
"Newington Cottage" (Royaumont) (further 6 months)...	Per Edinburgh W.S.S., per Dr. and Mrs. Nicol.
"Laurel Bank" (Salonica) (further 6 months)...	Per Miss Morrison, Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com., per Laurel Bank School.
"Manchester University Women Students" (two beds, 6 months each) (Corsica) (further donations)... ...	Manchester University Women Students, per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec. Manchester and District Field Hospital, S.W.H.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Ilkley" (New Unit) (1 year)	Ilkley W.S.S., per Mrs. Thornton, Hon. Treas.
"Ben Rhydding" (New Unit) (1 year)	Ilkley W.S.S., per Mrs. Thornton, Hon. Treas.
"Mid and Upper Cowal" (New Unit) (1 year)	Per Miss Morrison, Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com., per Mrs. Graham.

Supplementary List.

Donations Collected by the Misses Erskine, Newbattle House, Pitsligo Road, Edinburgh. Card No. 441. For upkeep of "Churchill" Bed.

1917.		£	s.	d.
April 16.	James Cowan	1	0	0
	H. A. Anderson ...	1	0	0
	Mrs. Frost	1	0	0
	Mrs. Munro		10	0
	Mrs. Blyth		2	6
April 18.	Mrs. Killace Brown...		2	6
	Anonymous		5	0
May 3.	Mrs. Galletty		2	6
	Mrs. Gibson		2	0
	Mrs. Smith		5	0
	Mrs. Wilson		2	6
	Mrs. Bowhill		2	6
	Miss Balfour		2	0
May 5.	Jno. Robertson ...		5	0
	Mrs. Stark		2	6
	Mrs. McGregor ...		2	6
	Rose E. Thompson ...		5	0
	Mrs. Bryce		2	0
	Mrs. Brownlie		2	6
	Misses Christie ...		3	0
	Misses Edmonston ...		5	0
	Misses Henderson ...		2	6
	Mrs. Fleck		5	0
	Mrs. Ross		5	0
	Miss Edmonston ...		5	0
	Thomas Fairbairn ...		5	0
	Robert Attkin		5	0
	Mrs. E. Fryer		5	0
	Mrs. Currie		2	6
	Mrs. Geo. Pott... ...		2	6
	J. N.		2	0
	J. H. Douglas		2	0
June 9.	Mrs. Salmond		2	6
	Miss Warrack		5	0
June 12.	Miss Erskine	2	0	0
	Miss Ann Erskine ...	2	0	0
	Miss A. J. Erskine ...	1	0	0
	W. J. Dundas, Esq. (further)	2	6	0
		£15	19	0

Card No. 445.

1917.		£	s.	d.
Mar. 10.	Miss Fullarton ...		5	0
Mar. 19.	Lord Dundas	1	0	0
	Mr. J. Dundas... ...	1	1	0
	Prof. Hume Brown ...	2	2	0
	Miss Evelyn Dundas		10	0
Mar. 20.	Lady Dalgleish... ...	2	0	0
	Miss Wood		5	0
Mar. 21.	Mrs. Cowan	2	0	0
	Two Old Churchill Residents	2	0	0
	Mrs. Ferguson... ...		10	0
Mar. 24.	A Friend	1	0	0
	Six Friends		6	0
Mar. 26.	S. Orr, Esq.		10	0
	Anonymous	1	1	0
Mar. 28.	A. R. Duncan, Esq. ...	2	0	0
	Lady Heygate	1	1	0
Mar. 30.	John Cowan		10	0
	Miss M. Cowan ...		10	0
April 3.	Mrs. Carnegie	2	0	0
April 4.	Mrs. Tweedie	1	0	0
April 7.	Mrs. Rupert Smith ...		10	0
	Miss Watson	1	0	0
April 10.	Miss McVitie		10	0
	Mrs. Simpson		10	0
April 12.	Mrs. Galloway... ...	1	0	0
	Mrs. McNeile	1	0	0
	Miss McNeile	1	0	0
April 13.	Mrs. Lockhart... ...		10	0
	Mrs. Mortimer ...		2	6
	Miss Harrison		2	6
	Miss Hewat		2	6
	Mrs. Wyld		2	6
	Mrs. Wishart		2	6
	Mrs. Armour		5	0
April 14.	Miss Brebner		10	0
April 18.	Mrs. McVitie		10	0
April 24.	Mrs. Gillespie	2	0	0
May 4.	Mrs. Rusk		10	0
May 8.	Mrs. Guest		2	6
June 12.	Mrs. Robson	1	0	0
	Miss Young	1	0	0
		£34	1	0

Birmingham Local Committee for the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

In addition to the successful result of the Birmingham Local Committee's initial efforts on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, published in Common Cause for week ending June 22nd, Headquarters Committee have much pleasure in stating that further donations, amounting to the sum of £200, have been received by the local Hon. Treasurer, Mr. John Weatherhead, Birmingham, the result of Garden Fête and Entertainment held at the end of June. The result of the Hon. Evelina Haverfield's meetings at Malvern, amounting to £24 4s. 6d., has been received at Headquarters, and acknowledged in The Common Cause list published July 7th. This sum will be included in the Birmingham list of subscriptions, when published.

Manchester and District Federation Field Hospital Unit, S.W.H.

A further donation of £50 has been received per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Secretary, and D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treasurer of the Manchester and District Federation Field Hospital Unit, S.W.H., from Manchester University Women Students, for the continued upkeep of their beds in Ajaccio, for six months each.

Miss Kathleen Burke's Tour in Canada and the United States.

Continued success attends Miss Burke's efforts for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, both in Canada and America. Details of donations from Chicago, with subscribers' names, will be given in next week's list in The Common Cause. Some £30,000 has now been received by Headquarters and the London Committee from the tours carried out by Miss Burke during the past two years.

Mrs. Abbott's Tour.

Information has reached Headquarters from Mrs. Abbott, who is now *en route* for Australia, where she hopes to raise much enthusiasm for the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

A donation of £42 6s. 6d. has been sent us through the Coventry W.S.S., subscribed by firms in Coventry. This amount will be spent in heating apparatus, &c., for the cubicles.

Mrs. H. S. F. Johnson sends 5s., bringing the total collected by our readers for the Hut to £1,053 19s. 1d.

WOMEN WELDERS' ORGANISATION FUND.

The members of the Society of Women Welders appeal to the readers of The Common Cause for subscriptions to help the expenses of their organisation. They are confident that their Society will shortly become self-supporting, but at first their organisation expenses must be heavy, and they trust that those who believe with them that the only protection for women workers is organisation, will help them in their venture.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. M. Longley, c/o The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	94	7	6
Miss M. Rosseter		2	6
Miss Hoe		10	0
Romily W.S.S.		5	0
Lady Beilby	1	1	0
Miss M. L. Mathieson		10	0
Miss M. D. Martin		10	0
Miss Agnes M. Teacher	3	0	0
Miss Jane Graham	1	1	0
Mrs. Mabel Dickson		10	0
	101	17	0

"THE COMMON CAUSE" FUND.

We are very grateful to the many kind friends who have given donations to the C.C. Fund, and for the letters of appreciation and sympathy received, some of which we quote below.

The cost of running a newspaper has very greatly increased since we made our appeal last July. Any financial assistance is therefore very welcome in the present crisis, as we are anxious to keep up the standard of the paper and also not to cut down our pages further. Another way that Societies can materially assist The Common Cause, apart from donations, is for them to put all their announcements to members in our advertisement columns. This is a source of revenue to the paper, and in these days of dearer postage should be an advantage to Societies. Remember, also, IF YOU HAVE A WANT, MAKE IT KNOWN THROUGH The Common Cause.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	573	11	0
M. A. M.		10	0
Purley W.S.S.	5	0	0
Miss E. M. Lancaster	5	0	0
Mrs. Thomson, per Glasgow W.S.S....		10	0
	£584	11	0

From Purley W.S.S. :—"I am requested by the Committee of the above Society to forward you the sum of £5, enclosed herewith, on behalf of the Common Cause Fund. It is felt by the members of the Committee that the work of the paper is so important at the present moment, and the need of such a medium for keeping in touch with the momentous actions that are taking place so great, that the Society cannot do better work than to support the paper with its spare funds."

From a Reader :—"Kindly place enclosed note for 10s. to the Common Cause Fund. God speed in its splendid work."

THE GRILLE.

The Government have included in their finance estimates the sum of £5 for the removal of the grille in front of the Ladies' Gallery in the House of Commons. This estimate has not yet been discussed, but seems likely to be accepted without much opposition. Various suggestions have been made as to what should be done with the grille when it is removed. It might, perhaps, be kept in the Tower of London, among other interesting relics of an uncivilised age.

The Challenge

The Illustrated Church of England Weekly.

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY

The wider recognition of Women's Contribution to the Affairs of Church and State is one of the vital problems constantly dealt with.

Among those who contribute are Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Luke Paget, Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss Ruth Rouse, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Mrs. Pember Reeves, &c.

A Specimen Copy will be sent to readers of "The Common Cause" on application

You should find The Challenge *on sale at all bookstalls, but if you have any difficulty or would prefer it sent direct, a copy will be posted to you for 13 weeks if you send 1s. 9d. to* The Manager, The Challenge, Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Manchester and District Federation.

The following letter was sent to all the Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire M.P.s at the time of the Committee Stages of the Representation of the People Bill:—

Dear Sir,—We enclose the following memorial from Bury, Lancashire, which we think will be of special interest to you as a Member of Parliament for a constituency in the same part of the country. It is but one of the many pieces of evidence to hand which demonstrate that the wide support shown on recent occasions for Women's Suffrage in Parliament is a faithful mirror of the change of views in the country. Leaving out those who were on Active Service and those who, owing to illness or absence from home were not able to be seen, the analysis appended shows that the memorial was signed by approximately 84 per cent.:—

Mayor and Mayoress—Both signed.
Ex-Mayors—8 out of 10.
Freemen of the Borough—4 out of 5.
Councillors and Aldermen—27 out of 40 (2 not seen).
Magistrates—29 out of 42 (3 not seen).
Poor-Law Guardians—9 out of 11 (1 not seen).
Clergy and Ministers—27 out of 31.
Headmasters and Mistresses—31 out of 36.
Lawyers—20 out of 23 (3 on Active Service).
Doctors—20 out of 31 (7 on Active Service).
Bank Managers—6 out of 8 (1 on Active Service).
Army Officers Stationed at Bury—10 out of 10.
Officials of Trade Councils and Trade Unions—46 out of 62.
Large Employers of Labour—45 out of 63.
Matrons—10 out of 11.
Social Workers—32 out of 37.

We think the facts should be of use to you in the debate on the Women's Clause, as they exhibit extremely satisfactory results of what was practically a referendum amongst representative classes in Bury. These results are the more remarkable, since until three weeks ago practically no suffrage propaganda had been done in Bury, the local society being extremely small, and only formed just before the war. We are satisfied from similar evidence in other parts of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire, that were a referendum on the same lines taken throughout the country, the result would be a similar overwhelming majority in favour of Women's Suffrage.—Yours faithfully,

M. G. THODAY,
Hon. Sec. Manchester and District Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies.

A letter has been sent to all the Peers habitually attending the House of Lords with enclosed copies of the Manchester and District Federation Memorial and the Bury Memorial.

A number of constituents in the Accrington, Darwen, High Peak, and Knutsford Division have sent letters to their M.P.s on the Representation of the People Bill.

MACCLESFIELD.—A memorial has been sent to Col. Brocklehurst, signed by about fifty constituents.

CHINLEY.—Members meeting on June 8th, at 6, Lyme Park, Chinley. Discussion on Political Situation, Economy Exhibition, and Baby Week.

Mrs. Thoday and Mrs. Nunn were appointed representatives of the Suffrage Society on the local Baby Week Committee.

Several members undertook to get letters signed to the M.P. about the Representation of the People Bill, and it was reported that a number of important constituents had written to Major Hill-Wood on the subject.

Close on £11 have now been raised by the Chinley W.S.S. for the 1917 Manchester and District Franchise Fund.

RADCLIFFE AND WHITEFIELD.—A Scottish Women's Hospital Flag Day, organised by Miss M. Lofthouse for the Radcliffe and Whitefield N.U.W.S.S., was held on May 18th and 19th.

Several of the day school teachers acted as Ward Secretaries. Notwithstanding the strict rigid street regulations now in force, the flag sellers and collectors did exceedingly well in disposing of over 8,000 flags. The receipts realised £46 14s. 3d., and, after the expenses deducted, £42 6s. 0½d. has been sent to the Scottish Women's Hospital Headquarters, Edinburgh, to be earmarked for the upkeep of the "Radcliffe and Whitefield Bed" in the Manchester Federation Unit, Ajaccio, Corsica.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

BARNES, MORTLAKE, AND EAST SHEEN INDEPENDENT BRANCHES.

The Annual Meeting was held on June 27th in the garden of the Barnes and Mortlake Nursery.

The reports of the Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer were read and adopted, and the Committee and Officers re-elected. Mrs. Searson was elected Co-Secretary with Miss Walbsand-Evans.

Miss Geraldine Cooke took the chair, and Mrs. Stocks gave a most interesting account of the political history of the year leading up to the Representation of the People Bill, the Women's Clause of which she read.

Miss Cooke concluded with an appeal to members not to think of disbanding, as there would be plenty of work in the future for which our organised bodies of workers would be most valuable.

The usual vote of thanks to the speaker and chairman were passed, and a collection was taken for expenses.

BLACKHEATH AND GREENWICH.—On Thursday, July 5th, at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Lady Dyson kindly held a most delightful Garden Meeting in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Miss Gadesden, from the chair, made a stirring appeal for funds after Miss May Curwen's thrilling account of the work and gallant deeds done in the Serbian Retreat and up to the present time. Miss N. Walley spoke on her interesting experiences in a French hospital as a V.A.D. Votes of thanks to our hostess, the speakers and chairman, were ably proposed and seconded by Miss Carr Armstrong and Mrs. Brooks, all present warmly responding. The perfect weather and unique surrounding added to the enjoyment of a large and appreciative gathering, which was practically shown by a very excellent collection.

OXFORD WOMEN STUDENTS' SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—At a meeting in June the O.W.S.S.W.S. welcomed their new President and old friend and member, Miss E. M. L. Atkinson, as a speaker on the prospects of Women's Suffrage. Miss Atkinson gave an interesting account of the ups and downs during the last few months, when the question seemed imminent at one moment and shelved at the next, and contradictory instructions to members were the inevitable outcome, and life was breathless. She then went into the proposals of the Representation of the People Bill, and answered many questions. Women educated at Oxford do not stand to gain by the vote on a university qualification. If the suffrage were gained, let them use their organisation to work out the details of their citizenship in full service and in the maintenance of the standard of education; but members were none the less eager for the safe passage of the Bill, and set their minds to the possibility of "buying a cottage for the vote," if need be. Miss Atkinson's appeal for a good heart and a steady, met with warm response, by which alone full citizenship can be made real.

WORTHING.—A Garden Meeting was arranged by our Society to be held on June 30th on the grounds of Park Crescent, but owing to the unsettled state of the weather it was held at 8, Liverpool Terrace. There was an excellent attendance, many non-members of the Society being present.

Councillor Ellen Chapman presided, and referred to the large majority by which the House of Commons had passed votes for women. She hoped victory was now assured.

Miss May Curwen gave an interesting and thrilling account of the work done by the Scottish Women's Hospitals among the Serbians and on the Roumanian front. She gave many telling incidents of the personal and collective bravery of the units engaged on this humane work, and urged that no finer work could be done than to build up the morale and physical strength of a broken nation like the Serbs.

Miss Curwen closed her address with an appeal, and the total collection, £5 1s. 6d., was handed to her for the Hospital funds at the close of the meeting.

Owing to pressure on space, a very interesting account of a conference of women's organisations, convened by the Bolton Women's Suffrage Society, is unavoidably held over till next week.

Forthcoming Meetings.

JULY 19.

Birmingham—Stirchley Infant Welfare Centre—Speaker: Miss Kate Palmer. 3.15 p.m.

LONDON SOCIETIES:—

TUESDAY, JULY 17th, 8.30 p.m.—Wood Green Branch Licensed Vehicle Workers' Trades Union, at 52, Lordship Lane, N.—Miss Anne H. Tynan will speak on "Votes and Industrial Reconstruction After the War."

THURSDAY, JULY 19th, 9 p.m.—Cricklewood Branch London and Provincial Union of Licensed Vehicle Workers, at Windmill Hotel, Cricklewood Broadway, N.W.—Speaker: Miss Ruth Young, on "The Right Use to Make of the Vote in the Industrial Reconstruction."

FRIDAY, JULY 20th, 7 p.m.—Hounslow Branch Licensed Vehicle Workers' Trades Union, King's Arms, High Street, Hounslow—Speaker: Miss Anne H. Tynan—Subject: "Votes and Industrial Reconstruction After the War."

THURSDAY, JULY 26th, 7 p.m.—Walthamstow Branch L.S.W.S. Annual Meeting, Forest Lodge, Walthamstow—Speaker: Miss Ruth Young—Subject: "Future Outlook of the Society."

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(Continued on page 184)

Continued from page 183

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